

KIMBERLY A. OWENS

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Regional Counsel, Region 10

Assistant Regional Counsel, April 2009 – Present

- Provide comprehensive representation on all aspects of the Clean Water Act, including NPDES permitting and enforcement, Section 404 compliance and enforcement, ocean discharge criteria requirements, water quality standards, anti-degradation, secondary treatment, and marine discharges.
- Conduct in-depth research and analysis on a wide range of legal issues affecting the oil and gas, mining, seafood, and municipal sectors.
- Serve as lead Regional attorney for the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, and related ocean dumping and jurisdictional issues under international law.
- Develop and prosecute complex Clean Water Act Section 402 and 404 enforcement actions; draft and negotiate consent decrees and technical work plans to resolve violations and ensure compliance.
- Participate in all phases of high-profile NPDES permitting, including federal court litigation and significant coordination with Headquarters and DOJ.
- Counsel clients on a wide variety of miscellaneous statutory and regulatory issues arising under the Freedom of Information Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Endangered Species Act.
- Routinely process voluminous FOIA requests using state-of-the art electronic tools.
- Coordinate regularly with OGC, OECA, OITA, DOJ, Regional staff, and federal and state agencies on a variety of challenging and high-profile litigation and policy issues.

Awards and Recognition

- Silver Medal for Superior Service 2012 – NPDES Oil and Gas Exploration Permits for the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas – For excellent comprehensive work on technical, cultural and regulatory issues.
- Bronze Medal for Commendable Service 2013 – For exceptional leadership, dedication, and expertise in addressing Clean Water Act compliance for oil and gas activities in the Arctic.
- Bronze Medal for Commendable Service 2015 – NPDES Oil and Gas Geotechnical Permit for the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas – For outstanding regulatory, policy and technical analyses and a legally scientifically robust decision-making process.
- Bronze Medal for Commendable Service 2010 – For outstanding legal defense of EPA in judicial and administrative challenges to Clean Water Act permitting, standards and enforcement actions.

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United States Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor, Washington, DC

Attorney-Advisor, December 2000 – March 2009

- Developed and coordinated environmental policy initiatives among federal and state agencies, industry groups and non-governmental organizations.
- Represented the Department of the Interior at high-profile settlement negotiations, consultations with Native American governments, public meetings and conferences.
- Developed and analyzed complex legal, policy, and technical documents relating endangered species protection, habitat restoration, and cultural resource preservation.
- Successfully negotiated comprehensive, multi-party settlement agreements to resolve environmental disputes among diverse groups of stakeholders.
- Managed active docket of cases involving the Federal Power Act, Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and National Historic Preservation Act.

- Participated in all aspects of the hydropower licensing process before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure protection of Native American lands and resources.

Commendations and Awards

- Office of the Solicitor Star Performance Award, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.
- Tribal Proclamation, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, 2007, recognizing efforts towards protection and restoration of regional lake sturgeon populations.
- Commendation from Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe, Natural Resources Restoration Coordinator, 2006, for performance in hearing on complex water quality issues.
- Commendation from Director, Interior Office of Hearings and Appeals, Nov. 2005, for invaluable participation in interagency group implementing the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
- NOAA General Counsel's Award, Exceptional Performance and Significant Contributions to the Office of General Counsel, Interagency Rulemaking, 2005.
- Commendation from Director, Interior Office of Policy Analysis, April 2003, for exemplary assistance in Departmental rulemaking efforts.
- Letter of Appreciation from Commissioner, State of Maine Department of Marine Resources, 2003, for assistance in successfully concluding landmark multi-party settlement agreement.
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Conservation Law Foundation, Rockland, Maine

Staff Attorney, May 2000 - December 2000

- Devised and implemented regional initiatives to preserve Maine's environment, including programs for sustainable fisheries management, wilderness protection, dam removal, coastal preservation and comprehensive transportation planning.
- Developed cooperative relationships with state and federal agencies, scientific experts and public interest groups to promote these initiatives.
- Represented non-governmental at public hearings and presented oral and written comments to state agencies on controversial construction proposals.
- Supervised outside counsel handling complex litigation under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
- Conducted substantial research and analysis of claims arising under the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Wild and Scenic River Act, Clean Water Act, and state and federal highway statutes and regulations.

Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, Juneau, Alaska

Associate Attorney, February 1998 - May 2000

- Advised non-governmental organizations on environmental issues of national and regional significance, including management guidelines for U.S. fisheries, oil and gas leasing on Alaska's Arctic Slope, endangered species protection, wetlands conservation and public land management.
- Designed political, media and litigation strategies on these issues to ensure agency compliance with federal and state statutes, policies and regulations.
- Drafted variety of briefing documents, research memoranda, legal pleadings and analyses on activities affecting the Alaskan environment and Native Alaskan communities.
- Coordinated media strategies and public outreach efforts among diverse groups of national and local interest groups.
- Reviewed and prepared detailed comments on various environmental impact statements and assessments.

- Worked extensively with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act.

Pepper Hamilton LLP, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Associate Attorney, September 1995 – January 1998

- Advised clients on environmental regulation and compliance, insurance, securities, products liability and other commercial and litigation matters.
- Drafted wide variety of motions, pleadings, briefs and research memoranda.
- Provided regular case updates and reports to senior management and coordinated litigation strategies with outside counsel.
- Participated in trial of complex class action lawsuit, including formulation of direct and cross-examinations and preparation of key witnesses.

EDUCATION

American University, Washington College of Law

LL.M., January 2005, International Environmental Law, (b) (6)

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Villanova University School of Law, Villanova, Pennsylvania

J.D., (b) (6)

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Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

B.A. Communications, (b) (6)

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INTERESTS

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